

Town of Hudson  
Benson Park Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2010

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:10 pm. October 21, 2010 in the Community Center. A. Desrosiers led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Attendance:**

J. Barnes, , M. Lee, P. Nichols Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, Alternates John Leone, and A. Desrosiers

Excused: R. Empey, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper

Absent: K. Dickinson

**3. Public Input**

**K. Matthews** said that there are no Friends of Benson Park Brochures at the Handicap area entrance to the park. He asked if it would be alright if he placed some in this area. The Committee agreed that this was alright with them. He also said that many people asked if there will be any handicap signs placed in the Main parking lot. Many of the elderly or handicap don't like parking at the handicap area because of the hill. It is really too difficult for them to manage. Chair H. Schibanoff said that the parking lot is being enlarged so after this happens the Committee could revisit Handicap spots in this area.

**4. Presentations**

**Paul Lacasse** handed out a presentation of the colors to be chosen for the Gorilla House. (Dark green, light green and white). The painting will not be done until the spring and P. Lacasse said that the Friends of Benson Park would pay for the paints. This is just a proposal, nothing has been chosen or decided. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked K. Matthews if the Friends had been set up as a non-profit organization yet. K. Matthews said that he is set up as a Corporation in New Hampshire and working on a not for profit status. P. Lacasse does not want answers to the color scheme yet...this is just for information to be decided in the spring. He also mentioned that he would like a mural be painted on the back wall of the Gorilla House. Involving the art classes at the high school, he would like to conduct a contest to see the best plan for a mural. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked about future plans for the Gorilla House and would this mural have any impact on this. J. Leone said that it would not hinder any future plans. P. Lacasse spoke of a fund raiser for paints to do the mural. This fund raiser would not be held on Park grounds. The judges for this contest would be the Mural Committee and when they had chosen the three best plans they would come back to the Committee and have them make the decision. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if everyone would have access to the cage and the answer was yes. The cage door was locked open but K. Matthews stated that Selectman Liaison S. Jasper noticed this and said to have the lock removed. P. Nichols did not understand this. The reason it was locked in an open position was to prevent slamming the door on a small child's fingers. The lock has been removed. Chair H. Schibanoff asked P. Lacasse what

he wanted from the Committee at this time. P. Lacasse is looking for permission to check with the school and get started on a contest to design a mural for the Gorilla House.

**J. Barnes made a motion to authorize the Mural Sub-Committee to proceed with their plans on a Mural for the Gorilla House**

**A. Desrosiers seconded the Motion**

**6 in favor-1 abstention-Motion Carries**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

A. Minutes of October 07, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

**M. Lee made a motion to accept minutes**

**A. Desrosiers seconded the motion**

**All in favor...Motion Carries**

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. Parking Lot Expansion**

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that he just heard that the Highway Department would be working on the Parking Lot expansion starting on Monday, October 26, 2010. This expansion will be heading up the hill toward Kimball Hill Road. They will also be doing more work in the park and some drainage area work. A. Desrosiers asked if anyone had seen the area D. Empey was talking about at the last meeting. P. Nichols said he had cleared an area at the top of the parking lot and if you looked really hard you could see a bit of the road he spoke about. She did not get out of her car to walk there.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Proposed Benches for Benson Park**

**J. Leone** has given the Committee copies of the benches that the Friends of Benson Park are looking for permission to sell to people wishing to donate to the park in memory of a loved one or their family and they could be engraved. The benches are recycled plastic and shown green in color. The benches can be seen at the park on Greeley Street behind the Church and Merritt Park. He said that they were a little more expensive than others but the proposed vendor distributes from Massachusetts and would save cost in shipping by utilizing volunteers to transport. J. Leone said that people would not be purchasing a bench, they would be making a donation to the Friends of Benson Park and in recognition for their donation, they may dedicate a bench in Benson Park. This donation should be more than the cost of the bench,. The Benson Park Committee would require direction from the Board of Selectmen on who would install the benches (volunteers/Highway Dept./ Other?) The Friends of Benson Park talked about donating a bench and dedicating it to the volunteers. The Committee has the option of accepting this design or asking for another one. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked what the policy would be if these benches should be vandalized in the future. K. Matthews said that this has not been discussed at the present time. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that the reason she mentioned this subject is that another park in town has their benches vandalized all the time. She realizes that this area is isolated, but she still has some concerns. Discussion followed. Chair H. Schibanoff asked K. Matthews what he was looking for from the Committee. K. Matthews said he was looking for permission to purchase this style bench. Chair H. Schibanoff said that he would like to see them first and P. Nichols said that she would like to see them

and sit on one for comfort level. The flat bench with no back can be found at the Skate Park. J. Leone also asked about the location for placement of benches and it was decided that the Committee would look into this.

#### **B. Gorilla House Funding**

**J. Leone, Chairman of Building Sub Committee** presented the Benson Committee with a material cost estimate for work to be completed on the Gorilla House. Labor would be donated by volunteers and the Scheduling of Window Repairs to be started in October. He is looking for the wood to be on-site by October 22-27. Chair H. Schibanoff said that the idea is a good one but we don't have any money at this time. We could bring this before the BOS or possibly take it out of the building fund. P. Nichols asked if we could approve this and send to the BOS if needed. J. Barnes said that he felt the cost estimate should not exceed \$1,000.

**P. Nichols made a motion to accept this cost estimate not to exceed \$1,000.**

**Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh seconded the motion**

**All in favor...Motion Carries**

#### **C. Committee Reports/Remarks**

**A. Desrosiers, Chairman of the Photography Sub-Committee** said that pictures of the Grand Opening Celebration have been posted on the Benson Park face book page. Not everyone has access to face book so K. Matthews is willing to post some of them on his Web Site. J. Griffins is going to give her a copy of the video that was posted on Channel 20. She has no cd's to copy this video and she wants many copies. Chair H. Schibanoff said she could probably get some disc's from J. MacIntosh from the Cable Committee.

**N. Undercofler, Chairman of the Landscaping Sub-Committee** wanted to let everyone know that there will be a special clean up this weekend. This is mainly to get rid of left over brush, etc. from the last major clean-up. There are also a few new adopt-a-spots at this time. The Aviary locations have been adopted and work is already in progress. On October 13<sup>th</sup> someone from the Department of Agriculture in Concord met with the sub-committee to help with pointing out invasive species in the Park. There was an invasive species called Autumn Olive. This plant is extremely invasive. He also found a Japanese Hawthorn and the State is working very hard to eradicate this plant. If it is seen in ditches the State must be notified. He gave handouts to the volunteers and was a wealth of knowledge to the Sub-Committee with also identifying trees and plant life. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that at the last meeting it was stated that any areas in the park could be adopted. She has some concerns about this due to natural areas that should not be touched. N. Undercofler assured her that no natural areas or animal habitat areas would be allowed to be adopted. The policy for the Adopt-A-Spot is getting in touch with N. Undercofler and going out with her to see what is available or seeing the spot they would like, and if the area is not too large than N. Undercofler can assign the spot to them. They must come back with a plan on how they want it to look. Chair H. Schibanoff spoke about a man who picked his own spot without contacting anyone or showing what he planned to do. It was not in keeping with the park policy so Chair H. Schibanoff told him it had to be taken down. J. Barnes asked how this man felt that he could do whatever he wanted and no one had an answer. He said that someone in the park told him he could pick anywhere he wanted and do whatever he wanted. Now he thinks we are the worst people in the world for not letting him proceed with the area he had chosen.

**Chair H. Schibanoff** said that we have no money in our budget. He has to go before the BOS on Thursday to present our budget but we will have no available funds until next year. He will talk to Selectman Liaison S. Jasper to see if the building fund could pay for the Gorilla house expenses. J. Barnes asked if our regular bills are being paid and Chair H. Schibanoff said that they were but we are about \$800 short. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if there were money questions, etc. should this come before the Committee and Vice Chair H. Schibanoff said that this could come to him directly.

**P. Nichols** said that she had driven by the park one afternoon and there were vehicles on both sides of Kimball Hill Road, both sides of the driveway into the park and the parking lot was full. She felt that this was a safety issue because if there was an emergency in the lower parking lot, an ambulance or fire truck would never be able to enter this area. This was a big concern because even with the vehicles on Kimball Hill Road, no emergency vehicle would be able to enter this area. She felt that as a passive recreational park scheduled races should not be allowed. P. Nichols mentioned an email from a volunteer who felt pressured to spend money on fuel. Everyone does what he or she can and if they can contribute gas, food, water, equipment, paint, time, etc. that is fine, but no one should be embarrassed by any member of this Committee into paying for anything. In this day and age no one knows the finances of others and it should not be expected that if you can contribute costly items others should follow. J. Leone said he had a one on one with this volunteer and did not realize he came on that strong. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked about funds to reimburse volunteers or Committee members when they purchased things with their own money. This should be a discussion and it should be made clear that everyone has to be realistic in what is needed. Like every home budget...if the money runs out...that is it. P. Nichols thought this was a good idea. She is just about out of Brochures and will not order any for the winter months. Even in the spring the order will be lowered because the real rush is just about over. The weekends are the only time that the brochures are really needed. She said that she does not see spending a lot of money next year.

## **Adjournment 8:42 pm**

**P. Nichols made a motion to adjourn**  
**A. Desrosiers Seconded the Motion**  
**All in favor-Motion Carries**

**Next Meeting:**  
**November 4, 2010**  
**7:00 PM**